

## **Weekly Diabetes Update 6-8-07**

### **1. Surgeon General to Be Kentucky Doctor**

President Bush has picked a Kentucky cardiologist who is interested in fighting childhood obesity to be the nation's next surgeon general, the White House announced on Thursday.

Bush nominated Dr. James W. Holsinger Jr., professor of preventive medicine at the University of Kentucky, to be the 18<sup>th</sup> surgeon general, who oversees the U.S. Public Health Service. Holsinger has led Kentucky's health care system, taught at several U.S. medical schools and served more than three decades in the United States Army Reserve, retiring in 1993 as a major general.

"As Americas chief health educator, he will be charged with providing the best scientific information available on how Americans can make smart choices that improve their health and reduce their risk of illness and injury," Bush said in a statement.

"Dr. Holsinger will particularly focus his efforts on educating parents and children about childhood obesity, a serious epidemic that decreases quality of life and burdens our health care system."

Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt urged the Senate to quickly confirm Holsinger.

"With our nation facing many important public health issues, such as childhood obesity, his experience and expertise is a great addition to the HHS leadership team," Leavitt said.

The previous surgeon general was Dr. Richard Carmona, whose term was allowed to expire last summer. Carmona is best known for issuing an unprecedented report condemning secondhand smoke, but otherwise kept a lower profile than other recent surgeons general.

A cardiologist, Holsinger has served as Kentucky's secretary for health and family services, chancellor of the University of Kentucky Medical Center and has held numerous academic and administrative appointments. Holsingers 26-year career with the Veteran Affairs Department culminated in his appointment as under secretary for health in 1992.

Holsinger received his bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky, master's degrees from the University of South Carolina and Asbury Theological Seminary and a doctorate and medical degree from Duke University.

Associated Press 05.24.07, 6:50 PM ET

### **2. Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Diabetes**

The beginning of tornado and hurricane season is here. Because of lessons learned from Katrina and other natural and manmade disasters it is vitally important to include information about chronic diseases like diabetes in any emergency preparedness planning.

Access the link to Disaster Information for People With Diabetes on CDC's Diabetes home page (under Vision Initiative): [www.CDC.gov/diabetes](http://www.CDC.gov/diabetes). If your state has a state plan for emergency preparedness, feel free to include this link in the plan.

Please contact Kristina Ernst, RN, CDE to discuss how to include emergency preparedness for chronic disease in your state plan. She is also interested in hearing from any state who has already started training first responders or health care providers in emergency preparedness.

Contact the following for additional information:

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### **3. Office of Women's Health Accepting Proposals for Heart Truth Events**

The Office of Women's Health in Kansas City, MO is seeking proposals for Heart Truth events. Access the two websites for additional information at [www.womenshealth.gov](http://www.womenshealth.gov) and [www.girlshealth.gov](http://www.girlshealth.gov).

You can also contact the following for more information:

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#### **4. Afterschool and Summer Nutrition Programs**

Share Our Strength's Great American Bake Sale Supports efforts to increase participation among low income school-age children in afterschool and summer meal programs. Eligible applicants include independent school districts, nonprofits, and community-based organizations. The deadline for applications is July 13, 2007. For further information, contact Great American Bake Sale at [grants@strength.org](mailto:grants@strength.org) or go to: [http://gabs.strength.org/site/PageServer?pagename=GABS\\_grants](http://gabs.strength.org/site/PageServer?pagename=GABS_grants)